

On Eagle's Wings



St. John's Monthly Newsletter – April 2020

Growth

Pastor's Paragraphs

I suppose these thoughts fit more with the Christmas season than the Easter season, but the inability to worship together because of infectious disease makes them applicable today.

Christianity is an *incarnational* faith. The core of our beliefs is that God came to be with us in order to reveal God's nature to us. Many other religions, especially ancient Greek religions, believed that the gods would come in human form. These gods would use humans as playthings to suit their whims. Some religions believed that the political leaders were gods on earth, or else descendants of the gods. So the idea of a divine being taking human form is not unique to Christianity.

What is unique is the idea of God coming to live a lifetime in community with humans. God came to be with us to both reveal God's nature of love but to also simply enjoy human company. Jesus liked people! He liked not only the people who were clean and prim and proper, but everybody; even the contagious outcasts with leprosy.

Community is central to Christianity. In fact the word church comes from the Greek word *ἐκκλησία*, which means "assembly". Also of course the word communion and community are very similar.

How does the church work then when we can't assemble? The way we express our faith, and grow in our faith, and are nurtured by our faith all change significantly! For our members who have internet connections we are having worship services at 10:30 on Sundays via Zoom. That doesn't let us be together but we can still see who else is around and interact some. One of the reasons we're using Zoom and not simply livestreaming worship is because it creates this greater sense of community. Worship would be more of a performance by a few leaders if it was livestreamed. That is not who we are!

For some of our members who don't have internet we're sending paper copies of sermons, bulletins, and

newsletters through the mail. That keeps us connected a bit, but certainly more distant than the internet.

In time we will be able to assemble again. I don't know when that will be. I hope this time apart helps us realize that our faith is not a set of beliefs/doctrines held by individuals. It is a flesh and blood community of people gathered together and with God. God does not build us through anything miraculous. God builds us in the ordinariness of being together. Our faith is as strong or as weak as we are connected. A life of faith is not as the hymn *In the Garden* depicts it – an individual stroll through a garden with Jesus. (Remember the first line? "I come to the garden alone..." Nope!) It is a community adventure with God.

May God continue to be with us and strengthen us even as we are apart these several weeks.
Pastor Jon

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school is continuing with materials posted on the Sunday school's Facebook page. Please be in touch with Jen White if you have any questions.

Worship

Worship Plans

-Sunday worship is happening at 10:30 am via Zoom. The link to the service is emailed out and it is available on the website.

-Mid-week Lenten services as cancelled but emails are being sent with links to the video series we have been using.

-It is almost certain we will not be worshipping together again on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. We will use Zoom for those services.

- Holy Communion

How do you have communion when you can't get together? That's a good question! There is no one right answer. Churches across the country are handling it differently. For the time being we are not having it. Our bishop is suggesting that we wait until we can gather again.

Worship (Cont.)



April Gospel Readings

April 5 (Palm Sunday) – Matthew 26:1-16
April 9 (Maundy Thursday) – Matthew 26:17-75
April 10 (Good Friday) – Matthew 27
April 12 (Easter) – Matthew 28:1-10
April 19 – Matthew 28:11-15
April 26 – Matthew 28:16-20

The Rest of the Gospel Reading

On Sundays we've often had long readings from Matthew's gospel. The sermon usually touches on only one part of that reading. What about the rest? Pastor Jon has begun adding thoughts about these parts to his blog Imperfect Faith. Check them out on weekdays. You can access the blog directly at jdeibler.blogspot.com Updates are also posted on the church's Facebook page.



Give Up Lint for Lent – Still On!

We won't be using the lint etc. for our sunrise service on Easter, but keep collecting it. At some point we'll put it all together and have a fire. So... There is a collection box in the Gathering Area for you to put your **dryer lint, used dryer sheets, old crayons and stubs of candles.** Save them until we can get together again or drop them off if you come by the church building.

Nuts and Bolts

New Directories

The 2020 membership directories are in your mailbox at church. If you happen to be in the building please pick yours up. For many of us it will be awhile before we are in the church building. However, please check your information and send any corrections to the church office either on a note in the secretary mailbox or to the church's email: sjlcvector@gmail.com

Finances

Please remember to keep up with your offerings even as we are not meeting on Sunday mornings. If you have offering envelopes you know that they are designed to be put in the mail. Even better, if you haven't signed up for Simply Giving, please consider it. It is an automatic withdrawal from your bank account. Please be in touch with Dave Bullwinkle, our financial secretary, for more information. He can be reached at: dbullwinkle@frontier.com

2020 Council Officers and Committee Liaisons

Officers:

President: Gary Wood
Vice-President: Pete Gregory
Secretary: Tricia Kolczynski
Treasurer: Rob Stroup
Financial Secretary: Dave Bullwinkle

Committees:

Stewardship and Finance

Chair – Bill Stimmel
Liaison – Katy Stimmel

Property

Chair – Tom Urbanic
Liaison – Kevin Christman

Worship and Music

Chair and Liaison – Beth Schroeder

Education

Chair – Jen White
Liaison – Wendy Sackett

Fellowship

Chair – Karen Spawton
Liaison – Lisa Kurilovitch

Outreach

Chair – Burdie Gillern
Liaison – Tricia Kolczynski

Family Promise – Beth Schroeder

Service



Lenten Coin Banks

ELCA Good Gifts - Goat and Chicks

With this gift a family gains access to an ongoing supply of eggs from their chickens and protein-packed milk from their goat. Even better, extra eggs and dairy products can be sold at the market for a steady income. The combination costs \$60. We'd like to collect enough to send 6 of these. Hang on to your coin boxes. We'll collect them when we are able to gather for worship again.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

We will be hosting our annual Red Cross blood drive on Tuesday, April 7 from 2:00 – 7:00.

Please sign up if you are able to donate. (Due to the coronavirus we are not making the usual ask for volunteers to help with staffing and food.)

If you wish to donate blood, please go to the Red Cross website where you will be able to make an appointment that is convenient for you.

This will be our eleventh drive.

Over the years, we have collected 289 units of blood, providing support to a possible 867 patients!

When blood is needed, there is nothing else that can take its place!

Any questions? Ask Mary Zuege.
315/986-2015



-Thank you to Jim Spawton, Gary Boisseau, and Gary Wood for their cooking at the Fat Tuesday pancake supper and the Lenten egg breakfasts.

-Thank you to Beth Schroeder for organizing the euchre night.

-Thank you to Julie Stuart for organizing the congregation's youth to help with cleaning the church a couple weeks.



-The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff and the South Wedge Mission in Rochester.

-Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester and their missionary work in Zambia.

-Gary Myers who is being treated for multiple myeloma. He is doing well and is responding to the treatments

-Linda Ellis who continues to monitor her cancer issues.

-Bob Stroup, Rob Stroup's dad, who has been suffering from dementia and other health problems.

-Knute Halvorson, who is living in Aria Nursing Home in Penfield.

-Charles Twitchell who is in a nursing home recovering from a fall.

-The Riccis, a missionary family currently stuck in Malaysia because of virus quarantines.

New Missionary Sponsorship!



Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester - Zambia

About the Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester's missionary service

Pastor Deborah serves as the Facilitator for Leadership Development with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zambia. She and Joe live in Lusaka, Zambia.

Read more about the Troesters' service on their blog: <http://africanwaterlog.blogspot.com/>

More about the Troesters: The Troesters formerly served as ELCA East Africa Regional Representatives based in Tanzania. Prior to that, they served the church in the Central African Republic, where Deborah taught at the Theological School and Joe worked with the church's water project. He has over 40 year of experience working with water, mainly in developing countries. Joe and Deborah both speak German, Spanish, French, and a little Swahili. Deborah is an ordained pastor (PCUSA) who enjoys her ecumenical relationship with the ELCA. Their daughter Christa is a student at the University of Southern California, working on a double major in Film and Television Production and French.

Service (Cont.)

Family Promise Update

From director Lauren Lamb:
Hello wonderful community!

We are so grateful for all of your support. Your care and well wishes sustain us.

As with all of you, our world at FPOC has changed. Our priority and focus remain the safety and well being of our guests and volunteers. Understand, in amongst the changes, *Family Promise's Hospitality Network is an essential service*. We are committed to remaining open to house the families we are caring for. Services will, however, look different.

For the foreseeable future, guests will be taking all their meals at the Day Center and a single congregation will be used to shelter our families overnight. There *will* still be opportunities to serve the program while maintaining safe health practices.

Food Cupboard Emergency Food Distribution Help

From Council President Gary Wood:

Folks,

We need your help. We are starting the distribution of emergency food boxed for the Victor Farmington Food Cupboard (VFFC). We have 15 boxes at the church waiting to be distributed. VFFC will email me with the names of their clients that will come to St. John's and pick up their boxes. We do not need to be there when they pick it up.

We are planning to have two people prepare each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. We will start at 1:30 pm each day. It will usually take no more than 30 minutes to prepare the boxes of food. The boxes weigh approximately 40 lbs. When you have finished preparing the boxes you can leave.

We are asking for you to commit one afternoon over the next few weeks.

Please respond to Julie Stuart –

juliestuart06@gmail.com with the following information

Your name, your phone number and your e-mail address

Which day you prefer Tuesday, Wednesday or

Thursday

Thank you.

Gary Wood

In God's service and Grace

Fun



Hint: All the answers can be found in this month's gospel readings on Sundays.

March Bible Trivia Answers

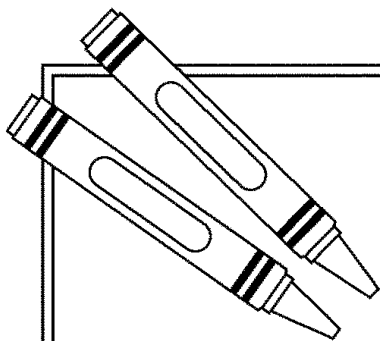
1. How many times does Jesus tell Peter he should forgive? Answer: 77 times (or 70 times 7) (Matthew 18:22)
2. What does Jesus tell the rich young man he must do for eternal life? Answer: Sell his possessions then follow (Matthew 19:21)
3. What is the pay for all the workers in the Parable of the Vineyard? Answer: The usual daily wage – one denarius (Matthew 20:10)
4. Who asks for James and John to sit at Jesus' left and right side in glory? Answer: Their mother (Matthew 20:20-21)

April Bible Trivia Questions

1. What (or who) meets the women at the empty tomb?
2. What does Jesus authorize the disciples to do for the first time in the gospel when he gives the great commission?
3. How much was Judas paid to betray Jesus?
4. What is the name of the other prisoner Pilate offered to free instead of Jesus?








"If I count my blessings and some of them are heavily taxed, do they still count as blessings?"



Just for KIDS

**In the spring the earth seems to explode
with new life. It is a joyful time.
God's creation blooms.**

Find this verse in the Bible that sounds and feels
like this special time of year. Use the code below.

 =A  =E  =I  =U  =O

“Th_ d_s_rt _nd th_
p_rch_d l_nd w_ll b_
gl_d; th_ w_ld_rn_ss
w_ll r_j_c_nd bl_ss_m.
L_k th_ cr_c_s, t
w_ll b_rst nt bl_m;
t w_ll r_j_c gr_tly
nd sh_t f_r j_y.”

Isaiah 35:1-2a



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

**Grace for Everyone
-Always-**

*We are a community of faith
committed to living and sharing the love of God.*

St. John's Lutheran Church

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www.stjohnsvictor.com

Address Service Requested

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